GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1296
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
OPERATION BY ARMY AGAINST ULFA
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government had given assurance to ULFA that army would not take any action against them till 13th August for restoration of peace in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) If so, whether the Army had urged the Government not to give more time to them and it was back to hunting down ULFA Cadre in Assam;

(c) If so, the facts thereof ;

(d)Whether such move of Indian Army has affected the peace process ;

(e) If so, the details in this regard; and

(f) The steps taken by the Government to bring peace in the North-Eastern Region ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a)to(f) : Three rounds of talks with Peoples' Consultative Group (PCG) set up by the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) have been held.The Government had agreed favourably to consider the request of ULFA for release of five ULFA detenues in consultation with the Government of Assam provided ULFA made a formal approach to Government of India/Government of Assam for holding direct talks, nominated the delegation for these talks, indicated the time frame and abjured violence in all forms including extortions, notices etc. Efforts with Peoples' Consultative Group representatives for holding these talks were continued even after three rounds through mutual initiatives. Government had also declared unilateral suspension of operations by Army against ULFA from 13.8.2006 to 20.9.2006 with a view to create a conducive atmosphere for holding peace talks.Since there was no direct response from ULFA and reports were received of regrouping, new raisings, violence and extortion by ULFA cadres, operations against ULFA have been resumed.

The Government is open to talks with any militant group provided they shun violence. However, Government is duty bound to protect the lives and property of its citizens.